

ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

Volume 29

Issue 7

November 2025

**This Saturday, November 15,
1:00 PM Hybrid, In Person and
ZOOM Membership Meeting at
Eagle River Elk's Lodge 17111
Eagle River Lp Road**

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From the President

Single digit overnight temps (7°F) put me in quite the rebellion this weekend. My mind kept scolding my body. Essentially, my body was warm and comfortable under the blankets or in my bathrobe, and refused to do what my mind was demanding. Welcome to winter in Alaska. Monday morning when I awoke, it was 20°F and the resistance vanished. The dishes are washed, the laundry is done, and three other tasks have been crossed off the to-do list and it is just 8:00am. The weather for the next week looks bearable, which has rekindled my enthusiasm. A little warmth and light goes a long way with us plant enthusiasts.

I trust the winter is treating you well, and hope you will be able to join us in person on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Eagle River Elks Lodge, 17111 Eagle River Loop Road. The meeting will be a hybrid in person/Zoom meeting for those unable to make the drive. At this meeting the membership will be electing the new slate of club officers for the next two years. We will also be treated to Florene Carney's program Hardy Plants for Alaskan Rock Gardens, which features eye candy to warm your heart and fuel your inspiration. In order for everyone to learn as much as possible from Florene's presentation, please note that a PDF Plant List has been provided as an attachment so that you can track plants and take notes during her talk.

See you there!

Jaime Rodriguez

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Please look for this attachment in your email for the accompanying plant list.



Plant List Florene's talk pdf.pdf

HARDY PLANTS FOR THE AK ROCK GARDEN by Florene Carney

SATURDAY, NOV. 15, 1:00 PM, in person or zoom

EAGLE RIVER ELKS CLUB, 17111 EAGLE RIVER LOOP ROAD





Do you recognize this plant?



Photo: Todd Bradley

Welcome New or Renewing Members:

There have been no new members this month but please remember that membership for the Alaska Rock Garden Society is for the calendar year. Renewal information can be obtained on the ARGS website at:

<https://www.akrockgardensociety.org/membership.html>

Annual memberships are just \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. ARGS strongly encourages use of on-line renewals by eliminating surcharges for using your credit card.





Seed Sources for Rock Garden Plants

by Kathy Swick

During our October General Membership Meeting, attendees at the program about seed starting enthusiastically expressed interest in trying it. Rock garden seeds or plants—compact, floriferous, usually from higher elevations—are not available in ordinary commercial venues. There are some local garden club sales (see program schedule) that have some plants. Those interested in trying to grow from seed have a few options.

I belong to several garden clubs that have seed exchanges and I donate seed to our umbrella organization, NARGS, The North American Rock Garden Society. They have one of the best seed exchanges in the world, since they have many international donors. I have the privilege of ordering up to 35 packets, more than I need or want. I would be willing to order seed for ARGS members if you let me know in a timely way what you would be interested in. Even if you don't know exactly what you want, maybe you can at least specify the plant family—for example, Primula or Pulsatilla or Arnica or Aquilegia, etc. NARGS publishes their final list in mid December and ordering opens up in Alaska at 8 pm Dec. 14. All of us plant nuts are waiting online for that magic moment. Seed arrives in January and we begin planting soon after.

So, please familiarize yourself with some basic plant families at our November meeting program, Hardy Plants for the Alaskan Rock Garden. Or, borrow some of those plant encyclopedias from the ARGS library that are full of eye candy, they may give you some ideas. When you have an inkling what you want, you can start a conversation on our private facebook page (Alaska Rock Garden Society), or contact me at northernsky@alaska.net.

The premier private business that sells seed is Alplains, owned by Alan Bradshaw in Colorado. He collects wild seed all over the mountains of the western states and offers it for sale at modest prices. He has an extensive list which I encourage you to explore at alplains.com. I will place an order within the next month, and would be willing to add yours to mine to save on shipping. Here are some other groups that you may be interested in that hold seed exchanges: The American Primula Society, The American Penstemon Society, the Alaska Native Plant Society, and many other gardening organizations. Most require membership, but I can help acquire those seeds as well.

CHECK IT OUT, and let's get growing.

There is no glee like seeing those tiny green shoots come through the soil!





Dates for events listed below are approximate and when available, additional information will be sent to members.

Educational Programs and Activities—ARGS 2025/26

Programs are 3rd Saturday of the Month, 1:00 p.m. In person or zoom or hybrid

WHEN	WHAT AND WHO	WHERE	METHOD
Sept. 20, 2025	Plant and Seed Swap	Elks Club	In person
Oct. 18	Getting Started With Seeds Jaime, Florene, Todd, Kathy	Elks Club	In person, hybrid
Nov. 15	TBA	Elks Club, if driving conditions permit	in person or zoom depending on weather
Dec. TBA	Social Gathering	TBA, likely Madge's house	in person
Jan. 17, 2026	The Plants of Southern Alberta Todd Boland, president NARGS	zoom	zoom
Feb. 21	TBA	zoom	zoom
March 21	Native Primula of Alaska Marilyn Barker	Elks Club if driving conditions permit	In person or zoom depending on weather
April 18	2025 Hikes Recap, '26 Preview, Todd Bradley Garden Troughs Jaime Rodriguez	Elks Club	in person, hybrid
May 9	ARGS Plant Sale	Botanical Garden, ABG near rock gardens, Anch.	in person
May 25	Saturday of Memorial Day weekend ARGS Plant Sale	Wasilla	in person
June, date TBA	Trough Building Workshop	Madge's workshop	in person, materials fee
date TBA	Trough Planting Workshop	TBA	TBA
various dates	Multiple and repeated garden visits	TBA	TBA
May 30 or June 6 TBA	Plant Sale, Wildflower Garden Club with ARGS participants	old DMV Bldg, near Spenard and Benson	in person
Aug. 8 or 15 TBA	Plant Sale, Master Gardeners Group with ARGS participants	parking lot of AK Botanical Garden	in person





Did you guess this plant?



Photo:
Burke
Herbarium

Draba incerta profile by Todd Boland, Aug. 2017

This *Draba* has small, spoon-shaped pubescent leaves that are packed into evergreen rosettes. Overall, the plant is loosely tufted, and has a tap root. The flower stems rise 5-15 cm (2-6 in.) topped with 3-15 small yellow, four-petaled flowers. The blooming season is generally June.

The species is native to shale or limestone rocky outcrops, talus slopes, and gravelly alpine meadows primarily in the mountains of western North America. The distribution ranges from Alaska south to Utah, at elevations up to 3300 meters (10,000 ft). In Alaska, it grows at sea-level, (Editor: easily viewable on the Windy Corner trail). There is a single disjunct population on the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec.

Cultivation: Full sun and a well-drained gritty soil are required. While not obligate to limestone, it does prefer some lime in the growing substrate.

Propagation: Seed requires 6-8 weeks of stratification and will germinate at quite cold temperatures (40F). Better germination and more sturdy plants are obtained if seedlings are grown below 60 degrees F. Cuttings are not generally taken and division is not possible with tap-rooted species.



Did you miss an ARGS program? Is there a program you would like to view again? ARGS presentations are currently being loaded onto our YouTube page, with a first group of videos available to watch now. This page has not been updated since last month. Please check back in the coming weeks to view new entries. (Please note there are no new entries since September)

ARGS President, Jaime Rodriguez has created a YouTube page for our club and has begun to upload videos of our meeting programs. Below are the links for videos that have been uploaded to YouTube so far. Each video has its own link. Jaime will continue to update tags and descriptions for each video, but the links will not change. The videos have been posted as "unlisted", which means that they can be watched by anyone who has the link, but they are not available to the public or searchable.

March 15, 2025 Jaime Rodriguez, The Genus Saxifraga <https://youtu.be/OOptTrxR9uY>

February 15, 2025 Todd Boland, Alpines Along the Beartooth Highway <https://youtu.be/QvbAOR1CU-4>

January 18, 2025 Paul Spriggs, Gardening on the Dry Side of Vancouver Island https://youtu.be/N_8xhKn6mrY

January 2021 <https://youtu.be/il4PSWTqUmE>

April 2021 <https://youtu.be/htlcqD9Hlew>



POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

President: Jaime Rodriguez

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary : Dorte Mobley

Treasurer: Charles Utermohle

Past President: Florene Carney

Membership: Charles Utermohle

Programs: Kathy Swick

Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Friedman

Palmer Visitors Center: Jaime Rodriguez

Librarian/ABG Rock Garden: Kathy Swick

Technology Upgrader: Charles Utermohle

Sunshine Committee: Dorte Mobley

Hike Committee: Todd Bradley

ENJOY OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, WORKSHOP OR FIELD TRIP?

Then Become an ARGS Member!

We have about six meetings per year, plus plant sales, field trips and workshops. Our meetings are generally on the third Saturday of the month, Fall, Winter, and Spring, and may be via ZOOM or a Hybrid format with an in person portion at the Elk's Club in Eagle River and ZOOM. Join on the web at <https://www.akrockgardensociety.org/membership.html>

Individual Membership \$15.00

Family Membership \$20.00

Canada Membership: \$20.00 US

Overseas Membership \$25.00 US

Membership is for the calendar year and includes all issues of the newsletter and Crevice Bulletins for that year. The ARGS Newsletter is published 4-6 times per year and our bulletin, CREVICE is published to announce special news or events. We invite your suggestions and contributions to the newsletter. Please contact Bonnie Friedman, email Bonnief@gci.net

Seeking your input: If there are any program topics or activities you would like to see in the next year, please contact Kathy Swick, our program coordinator.



**NORTH AMERICAN
ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY**

If you are not already a member, considering joining the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). You can enjoy the Rock Garden Quarterly, featured plants and books of the month, photo galleries, blogs of interest to rock gardeners, and information about upcoming events. Go to www.args.org/join and give yourself the gift of national membership.

WWW.AKROCKGARDENSOCIETY.ORG

Webmasters: Open

ARGS is on FACEBOOK at:

<https://www.facebook.com/alaskarockgardensociety/>